

MARVEL

#2

COSTA
SANDOVAL
OLAZABA
ALMARA

VENOM



YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE. WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS ACTUALLY AN AGGRESSIVE LIVING ORGANISM, HE REJECTED IT. BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE, AND NOW GRANTS WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO HIS: WALL-CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIO-ORGANIC WEBBING, AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND BECOME INVISIBLE, TURNING THEM INTO...

VENOM



ALTHOUGH THE SYMBIOTE'S PAST EXPERIENCES AND HOSTS HAVE GIVEN IT A FONDNESS FOR EARTH AND TAUGHT IT HOW TO BE A HERO, HIS NEW HOST IS BOTH AMBITIOUS AND SELFISH, PUTTING ITS REHABILITATION IN JEOPARDY. LEE IS ALSO DIFFERENT IN THAT INSTEAD OF THE SYMBIOTE CONTROLLING HIM...HE CAN CONTROL IT.

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IT WAS WHEN I STEPPED OFF THE ELEVATOR THAT I FELT THE COLD FIST IN MY STOMACH START TO CLENCH.

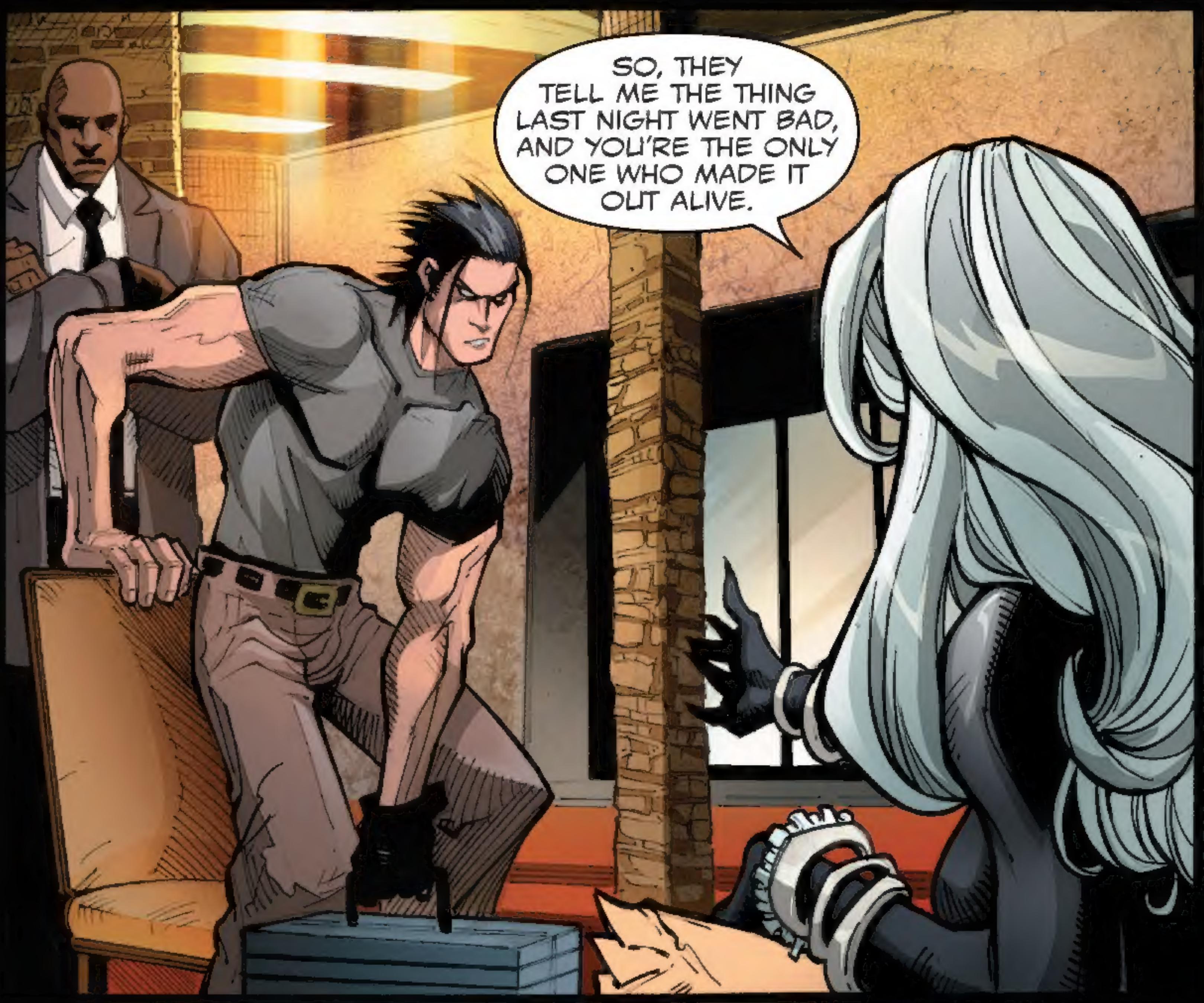
I'D MANAGED TO TALK MY WAY UP TO THE FLOOR. THAT'S EASIER THAN YOU'D THINK.

THE CASE IS WHAT GOT ME THE REST OF THE WAY.

SOMETHING THIS VALUABLE OPENS A LOT OF DOORS.

IT CAN
ALSO GET
YOU KILLED.





THAT SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT, BLACK CAT.



I KNOW WE WALKED INTO A SITUATION WHERE THE BUYER HAD NO INTENTION OF ACTUALLY **BUYING**, WHICH IS A FAILURE ABOVE MY PERSONAL PAY GRADE.

SO YOU'RE SAYING IT'S OUR FAULT.

I DIDN'T SAY THAT. I SAID I WASN'T THE ONE PAID TO SET THIS MEET UP, I WAS PAID TO COMPLETE IT.



A DAY LATER, THOUGH. WHY DIDN'T YOU GET WORD TO US RIGHT AWAY?

HOW WOULD I HAVE DONE THAT? MY ONLY CONTACT TO YOU WAS KILLED IN THAT ALLEY.

IN THE ALLEY WHERE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, AND OUR PEOPLE ON THE POLICE FORCE TELL US THAT THOSE MEN DIED OF SOMETHING OTHER THAN GUNSHOTS.

CARE TO TELL US WHAT YOU WERE DOING ALL NIGHT?

THE NIGHT BEFORE...

I FEEL YOU
INSIDE MY GLUTS LIKE
A COLD LUMP...

...BUT I DON'T
HEAR YOU IN
MY HEAD.

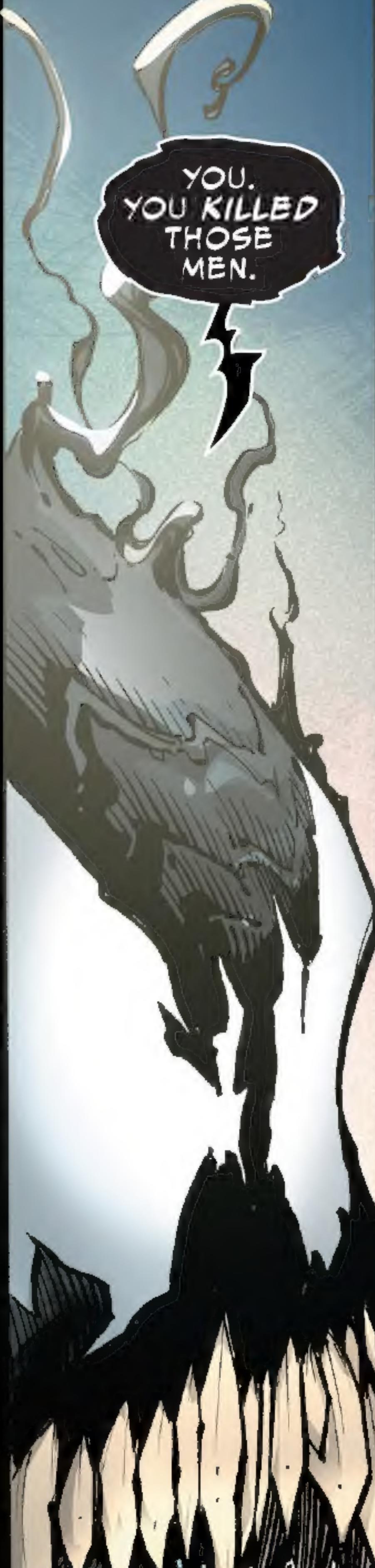
ALL RIGHT, YOU
BLACK GOOPY
ALIEN OR
WHATEVER...

WHERE DID
YOU GO?

AH.

THERE
YOU ARE.





YOU.
YOU KILLED
THOSE
MEN.

YUP. AND
YOU HELPED.
THEN YOU WENT
DARK ON ME
FOR TWO
HOURS.
IF THAT'S
HOW THIS IS
GOING TO BE,
THAT'S GOOD
NEWS FOR
ME.

I WAS...
WEAKENED
FROM MY ORDEAL.
AND SENSELESS
VIOLENCE IS, RECENTLY,
HORRIFYING TO
ME. I WAS...
UNPREPARED.

"RECENTLY."
SO IT WASN'T
LIKE THAT
BEFORE?
YOU'VE LEFT SOME
BODIES ON THE
FLOOR BEFORE,
HAVEN'T
YOU?

A LOT,
I BET.

IT'S
NOT LIKE
THAT...
ONE OF
THOSE MEN
WAS YOUR
FRIEND.

I
DON'T HAVE
FRIENDS.

I HAVE
KNOWN MEN LIKE YOU.
HOLLOW, EMPTY OF ANY
SENSE OF HONOR.
YOU ARE EVIL.

AND I HAVE
HAD MY FILL OF
EVIL. I REFUSE TO
PARTICIPATE IN
IT AGAIN.

I'M NOT
SURE YOU HAVE
ANY SAY IN IT.

LITTLE MAN,
WHOM DO YOU THINK
YOU'RE TALKING TO? I'VE
COME FROM THE STARS
AND HAVE WOVEN MYSELF
INTO THE GANGLIA OF
YOUR PARIETAL
LOBE.

JUST
BECAUSE I
WON'T KILL YOU
DOESN'T MEAN
IT IS WISE TO
ANTAGONIZE
ME.

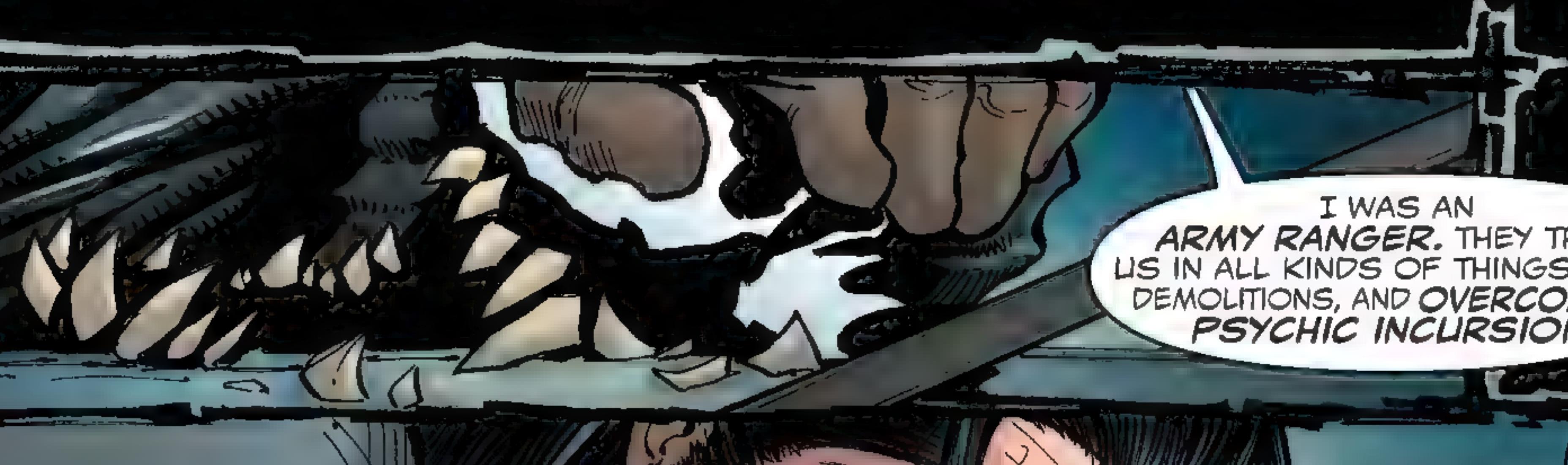
NOT WISE,
HUH?



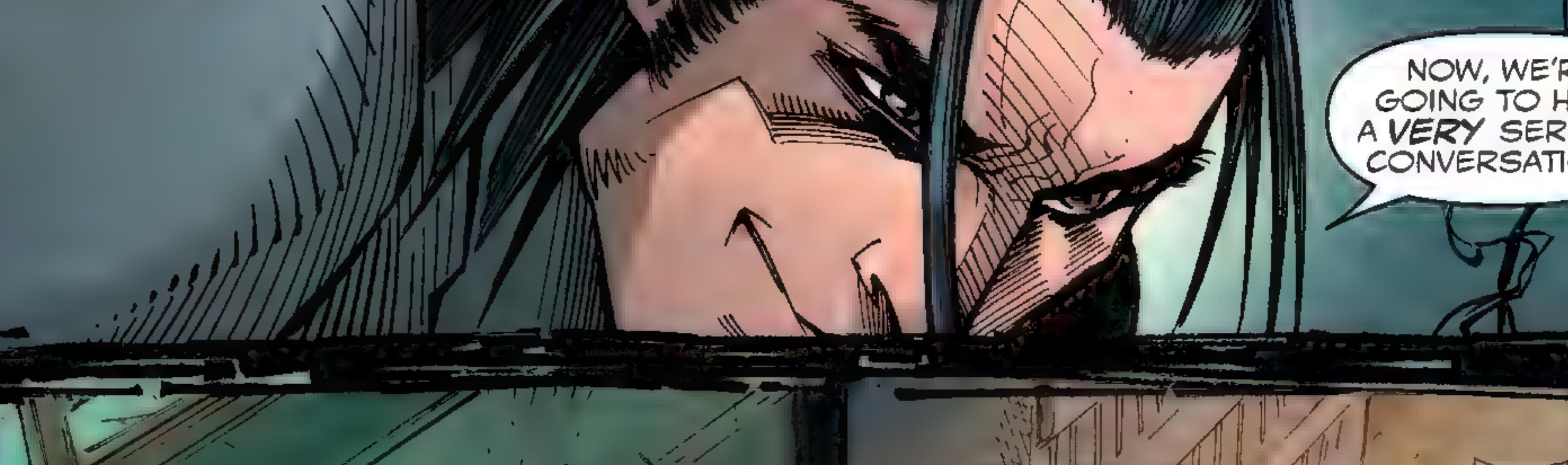
IT HAS BEEN
SOME TIME SINCE
A HOST ATTEMPTED TO
RESIST. I ASSURE YOU
THIS WILL BE MORE
PAINFUL FOR YOU
THAN ME.

YOU
CONTINUE
TO RESIST?!
HO--

NOW,
LISTEN
UP.



I WAS AN
ARMY RANGER. THEY TRAIN
US IN ALL KINDS OF THINGS--CQC,
DEMOLITIONS, AND OVERCOMING
PSYCHIC INCURSION.



NOW, WE'RE
GOING TO HAVE
A VERY SERIOUS
CONVERSATION...



...ABOUT
WHO'S ACTUALLY
IN CHARGE
HERE.



I
SPENT THE NIGHT
THINKING.



NOW.

THAT MAKES IT SOUND LIKE YOUR DECISION TO BRING OUR MATERIAL BACK TO US WAS UP IN THE AIR.

OF COURSE IT WAS. I HAD NO IDEA WHAT HAPPENED WITH THAT DEAL. YOU COULD HAVE SENT US INTO THAT AMBUSH ON PURPOSE.

I'VE SEEN INSIDE THAT MAN'S HEAD, LEE. IT'S CAVERNOUS WITH HOLLOW RAGE. STALACTITES OF HATE.

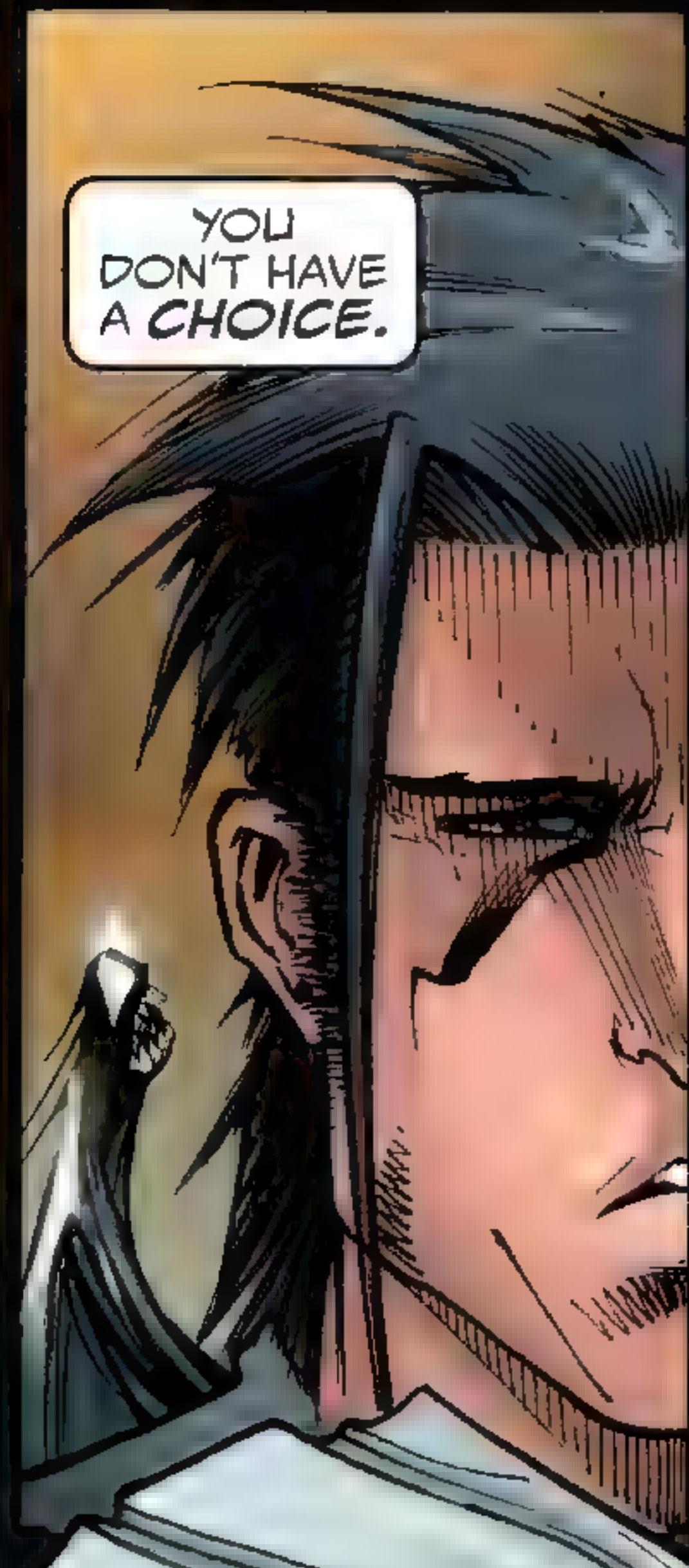
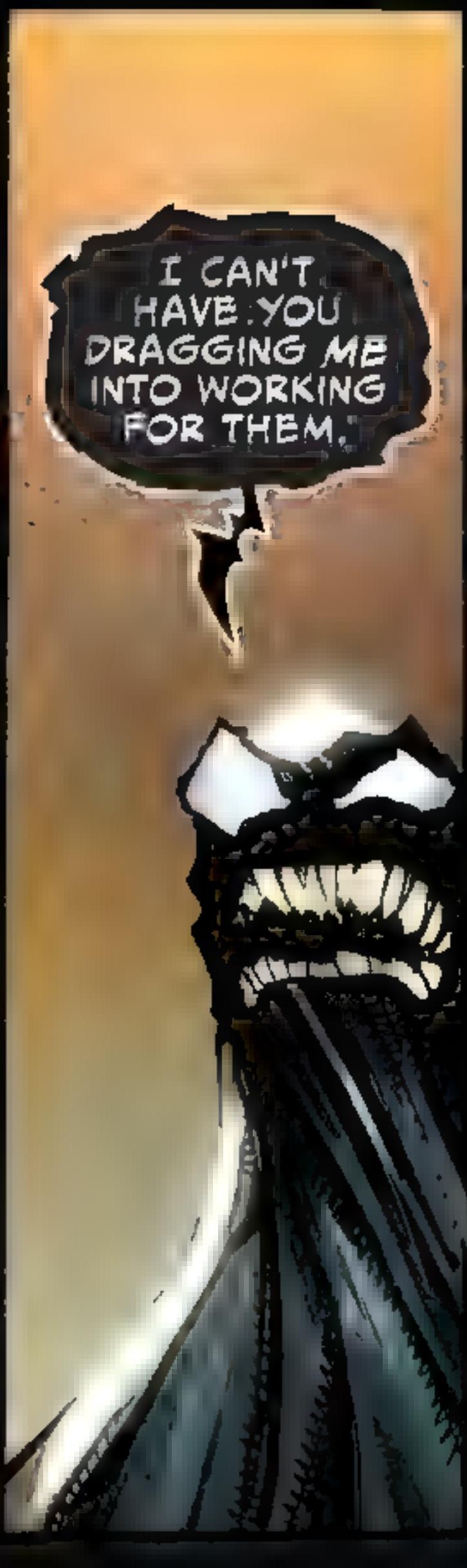
LEE, I KNOW THAT MAN. THAT'S MAC GARGAN.

OR MAYBE, EVEN IF I BROUGHT THIS BACK, YOU'D BLAME ME FOR WHAT HAPPENED. IN WHICH CASE, MAYBE IT'D BE BETTER TO KEEP IT, AND SELL IT MYSELF.

REGULAR EINSTEIN OVER HERE, HUH?
SO WHAT TIPPED THE SCALES?

YOU'VE GOT A REPUTATION FOR PLAYING FAIR. AND I DON'T KNOW ANY OF THE KINDS OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD BUY WHATEVER NIGHTMARE TECHNOLOGY YOU HAVE IN THIS BOX.

I CAN'T LET YOU WORK WITH THESE PEOPLE, LEE.



WHAT THE HELL...?

SORRY.
NERVES.

PLEASE.
I DOUBT YOU'VE
HAD "NERVES" SINCE
YOU WERE TWELVE
YEARS OLD ON THE
PLAYGROUND.

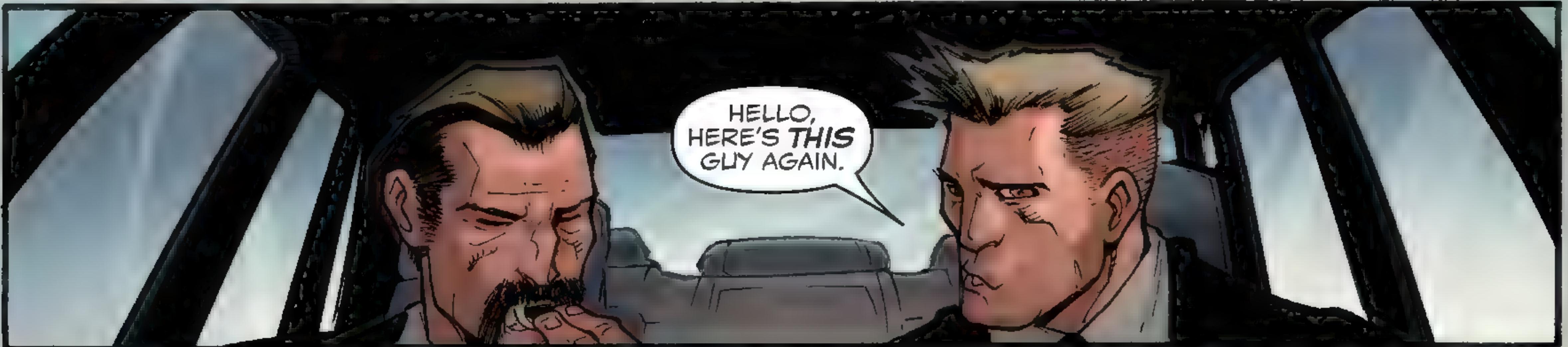
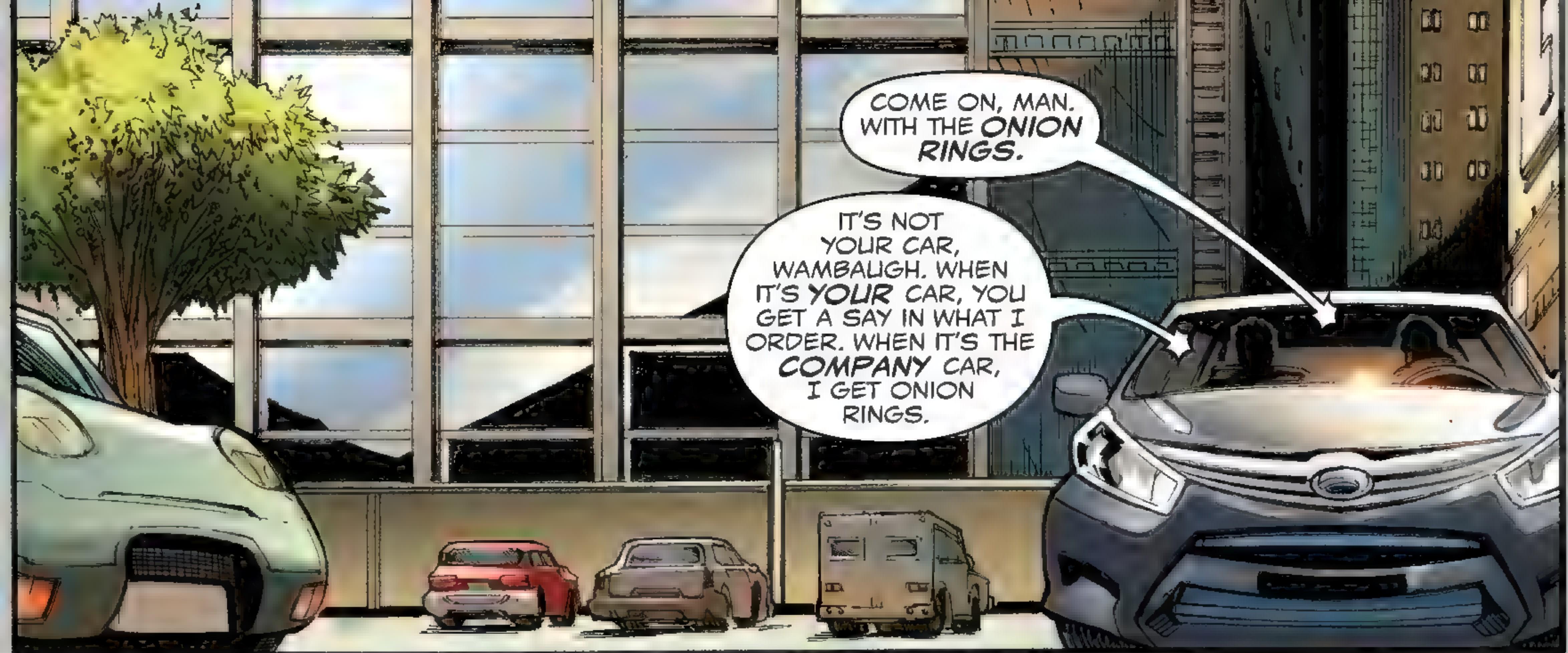
WHATEVER IT
IS, PULL YOURSELF
TOGETHER. AND GET
THAT BUCKET OUT
OF HERE.

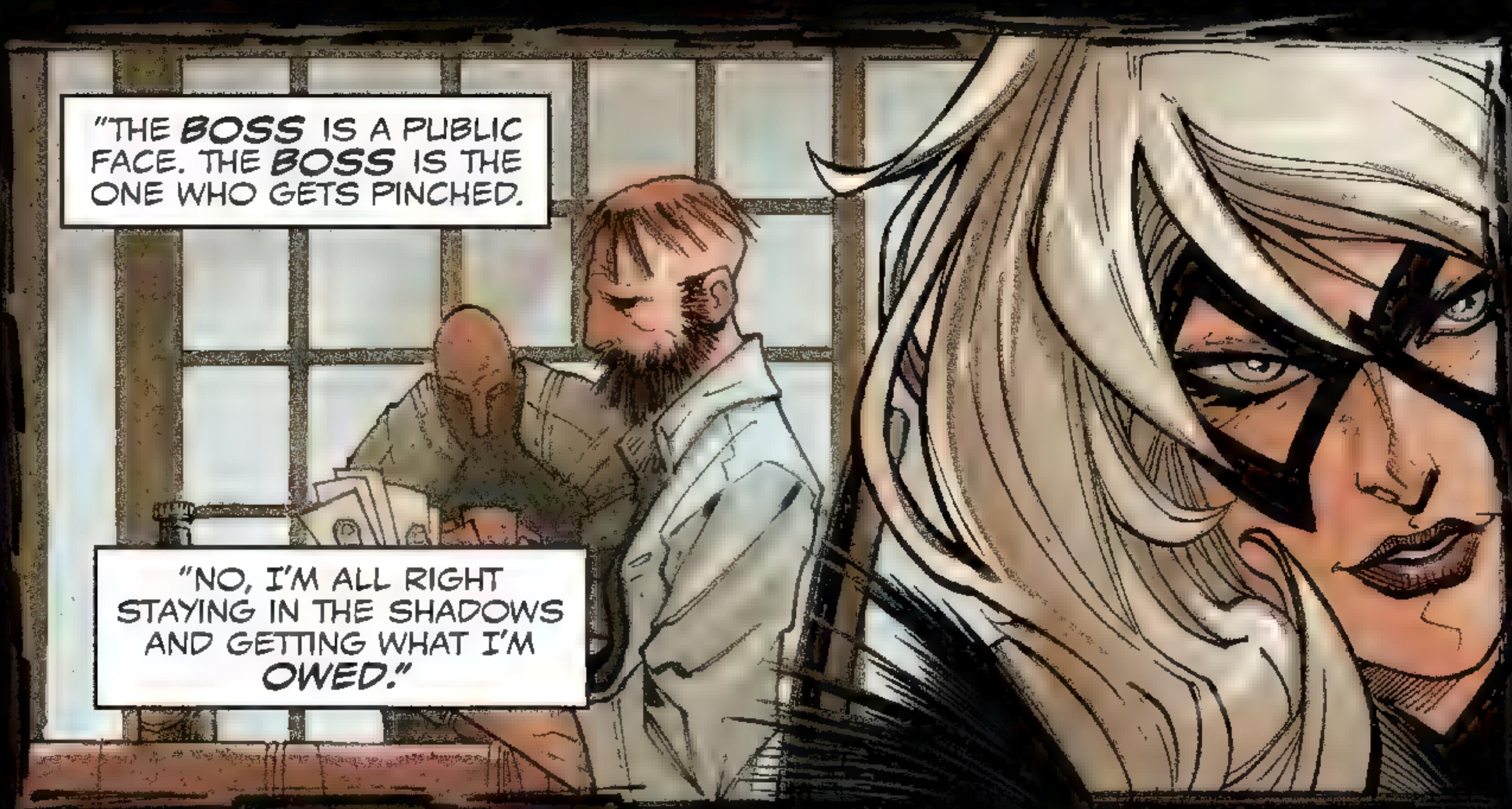
YOUR PET
SCORPION
KNOWS HOW TO
GET IN TOUCH
WITH ME.

THAT WAS
DISGUSTING. I
NEED A NEW SUITE.
I'M NOT STAYING
IN HERE NOW.

SOMETHING
SO FAMILIAR ABOUT
THAT GUY...

AND
HOW'D HE KNOW I'M
SCORPION?







YOU
REMEMBER
WHEN WE USED TO
HAVE SURVEILLANCE
VANS FOR
THIS?

NO.
YEAH,
BEFORE YOUR
TIME. WE USED TO
HAVE ALL KINDS OF
RESOURCES. THEN THE
MUTANTS CAME AROUND
AND SUDDENLY NOBODY'S
ALL THAT WORRIED ABOUT
ORGANIZED CRIME
ANYMORE.

FBI REALLY CARED THAT MUCH
ABOUT MUTANTS?

MUTANTS.
COSTUMES. GIGANTIC
GODLIKE BEINGS FROM
ALPHA CENTAURI WANTING
TO CRASH THE MOON INTO
THE EARTH. WE'RE BASICALLY
A LINE ITEM ON THE
S.H.I.E.L.D. BUDGET
NOW.

WE USED TO RUN **BLACK BAG**
ON SUSPECTED MUTANTS, MAN. IT
WAS LIKE J. EDGAR'S COMMIE-
HUNTING YEARS FOR A
WHILE.

YOU USED
TO BREAK INTO
THE HOUSES OF
SUSPECTED
MUTANTS?

WELL,
I DIDN'T. I
WAS RIDING A
DESK FILING
BRIEFS.

BUT THIS
ONE OLD-TIMER,
HE TELLS ME ABOUT HOW
HE'S RUNNING SURVEILLANCE
ON THIS WOMAN--SUSPECTED
MUTANT. HE'S IN HER PLACE,
TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS, AND
SHE COMES HOME.
GORGEOUS
WOMAN.

AND HER
MUTANT POWER IS
SHE CAN **STRANGLE**
A GUY WITH HER--

WOA, HEY,
ARE YOU SEEING
THIS?

YEAH, BOSS.
IT'S DONE. GUY COULD
HARDLY BELIEVE THAT I WAS
THE ONE TO SHOW UP. HE WAS
TERRIFIED, OBVIOUSLY.
MEEK AS A KITTEN--

Wheeeeee!

HOLY
\$%&@#%

RAAAAGGH!!



YOU...
TRIED TO BURN
USSSS...

BUT WORSE
YOU'VE SEEN
USSSS... ANYONE
WHO SEES US
MUST DIE!

HALT!

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU ARE, PAL,
BUT I'VE GOT
ENOUGH ORDNANCE
HERE TO DROP
THE THING!



FEDERAL
AGENT. YOU
ARE UNDER
ARREST!

TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT



